

## **The Oslo Accords at 20: The Humanitarian Reality and Ways Forward**

***Brussels, 22 November 2013***

2013 will mark the 20-year anniversary of the signing of the Oslo Accords. Officially titled “declaration of principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements”, the Accords were signed between the Government of Israel, The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and representatives from the U.S. and Russian governments in Washington. The Accords established the Palestine National Authority (PA) and split the West Bank administratively into Areas A, B, and C, with a Palestinian state as an expected outcome through final status negotiations.

But over time, the non-implementation of the Accords has eroded the spirit of the agreement, led to violations of the fundamental rights of Palestinians, and increased the fragmentation of Palestine, with far-reaching consequences for the civilian population in the West Bank and Gaza. Though meant to be transitional, 20 years on the de facto framework for administering the Palestinian territory established under the Oslo Accords is negatively influencing almost every aspect of Palestinian life, from access to land, water and basic services; freedom of movement, expression and association; to economic development and the right to family life. This has resulted in an increasing dependence on humanitarian aid.

EU officials have called 2013 the pivotal point in which to find a solution to this protracted occupation. As U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry presses the two sides to negotiate a peace deal, the lessons to be learned from what went wrong are more acute than ever. It is imperative that future talks are not used to provide cover for worsening humanitarian conditions.

In this frame, the Norwegian Refugee Council and the Centre for European Policy Studies will host a high-level, in-depth discussion in Brussels to take stock of the impact of the non-implementation of the Oslo Accords on the humanitarian situation in Palestine. The event will be an opportunity for the international community, and Europe in particular—as both a major aid provider and key political player—to reflect on their own responsibility as stakeholders operating on the ground and debate practical recommendations for addressing and mitigating the humanitarian situation.

## AGENDA

08.30: **Coffee and Registration**

09.00: **Welcome by the Centre for European Policy Studies**

09.15: **The Legacy of Oslo: Reflections and Assessments**

*Today's humanitarian reality*

- **Ramesh Rajasingham**, Head of Office – Palestine, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

*The Accords vs. implementation: the Palestinian view*

- **Leila Shahid**, Palestinian Authority Ambassador to the European Union

*The Accords vs. implementation: the Israeli view*

- **Yossi Beilin**, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel

*Aid and diplomacy: the challenge for international actors*

- **Andreas Reinicke**, European Union Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process

*A wider lens: peace negotiations, unilateral action, and the role of third states*

- **Daniel Levy**, Director for Middle East and North Africa, European Council on Foreign Relations

*Chaired and moderated by*

- **Jan Egeland**, Secretary General, Norwegian Refugee Council

10.15 **Coffee Break**

10.30 **Untying the Knot: Aid Policy, Political Action, and Creative Ways Forward**

Moderated discussion amongst panelists

Question and answer session

12.00 **Chair's Summary and Reflections**

12.30 **Lunch**